

Bioenergy Council July Meeting

July 27, 2011 DATCP Boardroom

Meeting Minutes

9:30am Welcome/New Member introductions (Deb Erwin – PSC, Gary Radloff – WBI)

- Attendees: David Donovan, Jamie Derr, Jeff Landin, Julian Zelazny, Tim Clay, Andy Fiene, Gary Radloff, Keith Reopelle, Steve Bertjens, Deb Erwin, Sara Walling
- Absentees: Dick Gorder, Troy Runge, Pam Porter, Henry Scheinebeck, TJ Morice, Councilman Ron Tehassi Hill, Kevin Wallenfang, Bob Sather, Susan Butler
- Need to identify possible replacements for Councilman Tehassi Hill and Lloyd Eagan
- DNR will identify replacement for their agency, Councilman Hill has been asked to provide suggestions for who may be interested in replacing his position

9:45am Meeting Overview; Voting Process Description

- Dave Donovan described how the morning would go. First a presentation of changes to the guidelines since April and explanation of 3 possible changes to the document proposed by various Bioenergy Council Members. Voting would follow this presentation and any subsequent discussion that ensued. Absentee votes would be read by Sara Walling and verbal voting to follow by present members.

10:00am Nonforest Biomass Draft Guidelines

- Brief overview of changes since last draft, peer review process – Walling/Hull
 - See Presentation on Bioenergy Council Website
 - Overview of peer review edits and comments
 - 3 proposed changes: add “current” to sentence on Page 25, Section 2.2, 2nd paragraph; Change wording on Page 58, Crop Residue, Site Selection; add back text on karst.
 - The first two were passed by present members, the latter was tabled and an agreement was reached that more discussion of karst will be included in future version of the guidelines (within 2 years) and will be included on areas of focus on cover letter for the guidelines.
 - Key Issues to address in future iterations:
 1. Karst
 2. Economics of biomass production
 3. Sociological sustainability of biomass production
 4. Update all sections as new science and data become available
- Open discussion of final draft – Council Members
- Public Participation (15 minutes) – no participants elected to speak
- Voting

- All in favor of approval of guidelines

11:00am Outreach Efforts Brainstorming

- DATCP & NR Board Informational Presentations
 - DATCP Board – Sept 12
 - DNR Board – Sept 27
 - May have a Land and Water Board presentation as well (DATCP)
- What parts of guidelines are highest priorities for outreach materials?
- Ideas for meetings, conferences, and events for guidelines promotion
 - WI Bioenergy Summit – October 6, 2011
 - GLBRC
 - Midwest Biomass Conference – Dubuque, IA, November 2, 2011
 - Farm Technology Days – Summer 2012
 - WALCE/WLWCA
 - State Coop Manager Meeting (Andy Fiene) – Sept, March or June
 - Ag Bankers Meetings
 - WEDC/Forward WI
 - New North – Ask Gary R for contacts
 - Nutrient Management update meetings (late August)
 - Soil and Water meetings via UW-Ex – statewide, early December
 - Keep in mind when other events come up, especially national meetings where we can showcase this unique effort
 - Scott Hull and Sara Walling will work on drafting template presentations for BC members to use to present the guidelines at their various group meetings.

11:45am Lunch – Gary Radloff and Keith Reopelle had to leave the meeting for the remainder of the day

12:00pm Work Planning Session

- Goal: Identify the issues we want to address related to biomass and biofuels production
- Explain the process – Co-chairs/Walling
- Topics mentioned at April 2011 Meeting
 - Key barriers to commercialization (by end use – fuels, power, heat? By feedstock?)
 - Connecting feedstock supplies to potential buyers/users/market
 - Need an integrated supply chain built simultaneously with market
 - Supply chain needs confidence market exists/market needs confidence supply exists – classic chicken and the egg issue
 - Both sides need to have “skin in the game”
 - Issues with feedstock supply assumptions – not all crop residue is waste available for bioenergy
 - Proactive analysis of permitting/regulatory burden or duplication for main types of bioenergy projects occurring today.

- Example: what are all of the permits needed to build a biogas projects? What agencies get involved? Do regulations from one agency hamper permit receipt by another? If yes, can these issues be rectified?
- Explore relative costs/value of feedstocks
 - What does it cost to increase or decrease moisture content in corn stover for various project user specs? To harvest ditchmass?
 - Price points relative to various feedstock-end use pairings
 - What are ranges of Btu values of various feedstocks?
 - Utilities currently pay on tonnage, but by Btu may be better
- Reducing Risk on both sides of a partnership
 - Crop insurance
 - Issues for aggregators
 - Potential for a program to reduce risk to farmers that is similar to the Ag Producer security program?
- Addressing Policy Issues
 - Policies to promote supply side development. Ex. Improved forest harvesting practice promotion
 - Incentives
 - Tax Policy
 - Be a sounding board for State Energy office Policy considerations
- Areas of competitive advantage for WI
 - What are they?
 - Feedstocks, logistical advantages, policies in place, stability??
 - Low-hanging fruit feedstocks/industries
 - Crop types – sorghum, residues, and other “future” crops?
 - Outcome could be a white paper/PowerPoint for outreach efforts
- Clearinghouse of information/resources/grants/programs
 - A team could form to assist in collecting, organizing and prioritizing information sharing on the Bioenergy Council website
 - Information/resources could include:
 - Funding opportunities
 - A placeholder for information obtained by other tasks above
 - Ex. Policy initiatives, WI’s competitive advantages, etc.
- Evolving and emerging issues
 - This topic has some overlap with items listed above
 - Workgroup would identify emerging issues (ex. Boiler MACT) and provide a forum for the Bioenergy Council to vet the issue and write an op-ed style whitepaper on the issues as they are seen by the various constituent bases the members represent.

2:15pm Dot voting to determine priority topics

- Voting did not occur given a quorum was no longer in place after the departure of two members at lunch.
- Instead, voting will be conducted via a Survey Monkey to be sent out the week of August 1.
- The survey will include all above potential work areas for the council
- Each council member will be allowed to vote on two of the above areas, and will be expected to devote some time to working with smaller subgroups of the Council to scope and work on the issues identified as priorities
- The top two (2) issues will be the main focus of the Bioenergy Council moving forward for the coming year.

2:15pm Set next meeting date (range)

- Much discussion was focused on providing alternative meeting venues, such as webinars and open conference calls for future meetings so as to reduce travel time and costs, and increase meeting participation.
- The survey sent out to members will include questions relating to alternative meeting options, best days of the week, times of the day to conduct meetings, etc.
- Julian Z raised the issue of members with one-year terms. There are 4 members whose terms will end on October 22, 2011 unless reappointed by Secretary Brancel. Sara Walling said she has raised the issue with the Secretary back in February and will do so again in a briefing with the Secretary next week and will be in touch with the co-chairs regarding his perspective/selections.

2:30pm Adjourned